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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

1843.

No. 57.

March 30, 1843.

GEORGE RENNIE, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

Joseph Miller, Esq. was balloted for and duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

The following papers were read, viz.—

1. "Researches into the Structure and Developement of a newly discovered parasitic Animalcule of the Human Skin, the *Entozoon folliculorum*." By Erasmus Wilson, Esq., Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology at the Middlesex Hospital. Communicated by R. B. Todd, M.D., F.R.S.

While engaged in researches on the minute anatomy of the skin and its subsidiary organs, and particularly on the microscopical composition of the sebaceous substance, the author learned that Dr. Gustow Simon of Berlin had discovered an animalcule which inhabits the hair follicles of the human integument, and of which a description was published in a memoir contained in the first Number of Müller's Archiv for 1842. Of this memoir the author gives a translation at full length. He then states that, after careful search, he at length succeeded in finding the parasitic animals in question, and proceeded to investigate more fully and minutely than Dr. Simon had done the details of their structure, and the circumstances of their origin and developement. They exist in the sebaceous follicles of almost every individual, but are found more especially in those persons who possess a torpid skin; they increase in number during sickness, so as in general to be met with in great abundance after death. In living and healthy persons, from one to three or four of these entozoa are contained in each follicle. They are more numerous in the follicles situated in the depression by the side of the nose; but they are also found in those of the breast and abdomen, and on the back and loins. Their form changes in the progress of their growth. The perfect animal presents an elongated body, divisible into a head, thorax, and abdomen. From the front of the head proceed two moveable arms, apparently formed for prehension: and to the under side of the thorax are attached four pairs of legs, termi-

nated by claws. The author distinguishes two principal varieties of the adult animal; the one remarkable for the great length of the abdomen and roundness of the caudal extremity; whilst the other is characterized by greater compactness of form, a shorter abdomen, and more pointed tail. The first variety was found to measure, in length, from the one-100th to the 45th, and the second, from the one-160th to the 109th part of an inch.

The author gives a minute description of the ova of these entozoa, which he follows in the successive stages of their developement. The paper is accompanied by numerous drawings of the objects described.

2. "On Factorial Expressions, and the Summation of Algebraic Series." By W. Tate, Esq. Communicated by the Rev. Henry Moscley, M.A., F.R.S., &c.

This paper, which is wholly analytical, contains an investigation of certain general methods for the summation of algebraic series, which have led the author to the discovery of some curious and elegant propositions relative to factorials and the decomposition of fractions; and also to a new demonstration of Taylor's theorem.

3. "Notice of the Comet;" in a Letter from Captain John Grover, F.R.S., addressed to P. M. Roget, M.D., Sec. R.S., and dated from Pisa, March 21st, 1843.

The author states that at Pisa, on Friday, the 17th of March, 1843, at eight o'clock in the evening, he saw a luminous arc in the heavens, extending from a spot about a degree to the south of Rigel to some clouds which bounded the western horizon. It was about 40 minutes in width; the edges sharply and clearly defined. On the 20th of March, the author could distinctly trace the extremity of the luminous streak, which he concluded was the tail of a comet, below the lower part of the constellation Orion, and reaching to the star η Eridani; while the stars δ and ϵ Eridani were distinctly seen with the naked eye through the coma. From η Eridani, it extended $47^{\circ} 30'$ to a spot nearly equidistant from χ Orionis and η Leporis.

4. "Variation de la Déclinaison et Intensité Horizontales Magnétiques observées à Milan pendant vingt-quatre heures consécutives le 18 et 19 Janvier, et le 20 et 25 Février 1843." Par C. Carlini, For. Mem. R.S.

5. A paper was also in part read, entitled "On the general and minute Structure of the Spleen in Man and other Animals." By William Julian Evans, M.D. Communicated by P. M. Roget, M.D., Sec. R.S.
